

Claims

1. A saddle for use on a horse's back comprising a combination of a saddle tree unit having a cantle end and a pommel end, a saddle flap unit, and a panel unit, wherein the panel unit and saddle flap unit are removably securable to the saddle tree unit.
2. A saddle as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the saddle flap unit comprises two flap components, one securable to each side of the tree unit, wherein each flap component is securable in at least two different orientations.
3. A saddle as claimed in Claim 2 wherein each flap component comprises an upper saddle flap and a lower sweat flap.
4. A saddle as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the saddle flap unit is bolted to fixings located in the tree unit.
5. A saddle as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the saddle tree unit is formed from a flexible material allowing lateral flexing of the tree unit.
6. A saddle as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the material is a polyurethane resin.
7. A saddle as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the resin has a Shore hardness of approximately 90 on the "A" scale.
8. A saddle as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 7 wherein the saddle tree unit further comprises a Y-shaped strengthening bar wherein the forks of the Y-shape are directed towards the cantle end of the saddle tree unit.
9. A saddle as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the strengthening bar is made from carbon fibre.

10. A saddle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the pommel end of the saddle tree unit is angularly adjustable.

5 11. A saddle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the saddle tree unit further comprises a head plate located near to the pommel end.

12. A saddle as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the head plate is malleable.

10 13. A saddle as claimed in Claim 11 or Claim 12 wherein the head plate is securable in an aperture located in the saddle tree unit.

14. A saddle as claimed in Claim 11 or Claim 12 wherein the head plate is formed integrally within the saddle tree unit.

15 15. A saddle as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 14 wherein the head plate is formed from malleable steel.

20 16. A saddle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the saddle tree unit further comprises two recessed portions, one at either side of the tree near to the pommel end, into which stirrup bars are securable.

25 17. A saddle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the saddle tree unit further comprises at least one sheet of bi-directional carbon fibre, applied to at least one of the upper and lower surfaces.

18. A saddle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the saddle tree unit further comprises girth web apertures located at both the pommel end and the cantle end.

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19. A saddle as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 17 wherein the saddle flap unit further comprises a girth web.
- 5 20. A saddle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the panel unit further comprises a panel plate.
21. A saddle as claimed in Claim 20 wherein the panel plate is formed from a flexible material.
- 10 22. A saddle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims further comprising a seat attached to an upper surface of the saddle tree.
23. A saddle tree comprising a tree body having a pommel end and a cantle end, the tree body being formed from a flexible material and a generally Y-shaped
15 strengthening bar wherein the forks of the Y-shape are directed towards the cantle end of the saddle tree.
24. A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 23 wherein the strengthening bar is made from carbon fibre.
- 20 25. A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 23 or Claim 24 wherein the pommel end of the saddle tree is angularly adjustable.
26. A saddle tree as claimed in any one of claims 23 to 25 further comprising a
25 head plate located near to the pommel end.
27. A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 26 wherein the head plate is malleable.
28. A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 26 or Claim 27 wherein the head plate is
30 securable in an aperture located in the saddle tree.

29. A saddle tree as claimed in Claim 26 or Claim 27 wherein the head plate is formed integrally within the saddle tree.

5 30. A saddle tree as claimed in any one of claims 26 to 29 wherein the head plate is formed from malleable steel.

31. A saddle tree as claimed in any one of claims 23 to 30 further including two recessed portions, one at either side of the tree near to the pommel end, in which stirrup bars are securable.

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32. A saddle tree as claimed in any one of claims 23 to 31 further comprising a sheet of bi-directional carbon fibre applied to at least one of the upper and lower surfaces.

15 33. A saddle tree as claimed in any one of claims 23 to 32 further comprising girth web apertures located at both the pommel and the cantle end.

34. A saddle as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 having a saddle tree as claimed in any one of claims 23 to 33.

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